



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
EUGENE I. GESSOW, DIRECTOR

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 786

March 3, 2009

TO: Iowa Medicaid Physician, Podiatrist, Optometrist, Optician, Pharmacy, Independent Lab, Ambulance, Medical Supplies, Rural Health Clinic, Physical Therapist, Clinic, Chiropractor, Audiologist, Community Mental Health, Family Planning, Psychologist, Screening Center, Hearing Aid Dealer, Orthopedic Shoe Dealer, Maternal Health Center, Certified Nurse Midwife, Birthing Center, Area Education Agency, MEP Case Manager, Adult Rehab, CRNA, Clinical Social Worker, Federal Qualified Health Center, Nurse Practitioner, Lead Investigation Agency, Local Education Agency, Early Access Service Coordinator and Remedial Services Providers

ISSUED BY: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

RE: Required Use of 26 Modifier

Iowa Medicaid providers billing on the CMS 1500 claim form (or the electronic equivalent: professional format) are reminded that the **procedure code modifier “26” is required when providing only the “professional” component** of an applicable procedure. This is consistent with Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) / Current Procedural Technology (CPT) coding convention and is important for proper claim processing and payment.

This reminder is being communicated in part because the IME will no longer add the “26” modifier for providers automatically as had been done under certain circumstances in the past. This processing change will take place for claims received on and after April 1, 2009. All claims received after implementation will be paid as submitted.

The IME reviews claims to ensure the proper use of this modifier. Providers submitting claims improperly may be subject to repayment.

If you have any questions, please contact IME Provider Services, 1-800-338-7909, locally 515-725-1004 or by e-mail at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us